

JAPANESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR
II HISTORY NETWORK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6434, the Japanese American WWII History Network Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network.

We must never forget the maltreatment that these Americans endured.

The establishment of this network would educate generations to come on past racial injustices in our country, in an effort to avoid future prejudice.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, marked the United States' official entrance into World War II.

Two months later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which ordered 120,000 people of Japanese descent to be forcibly removed from their homes and placed in internment camps, based on the widespread suspicion that they were acting as foreign agents.

The belief was baseless, but that didn't stop the War Relocation Authority from rounding up more than 120,000 people—two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens.

Japanese Americans were interned and essentially treated as prisoners.

After decades of pressure from the Japanese American League (JACL) and the Japanese American community, President Jimmy Carter opened an investigation to determine if the imprisonment of these people was justified by the government.

The investigation found virtually no evidence of Japanese disloyalty and concluded that the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans was a product of abject racism.

In 1988, over 40 years after the internment camps closed, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, which offered a formal apology for the government's policy toward Japanese Americans and paid \$20,000 in compensation to each of the 80,000 living survivors.

The reparations granted to the survivors and the official apology were necessary for our country to move past this grave racial injustice.

It must be noted that, just as our government recognized that reparations to the Japanese American community was necessary to acknowledge and move beyond that injustice, America's original racist tragedy must be similarly addressed.

On July 30, 2008 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H. Res. 194 apologizing for American slavery and subsequent discriminatory laws.

The Senate has never passed a resolution, and no reparations have been granted.

Millions of Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States from 1619 through 1865.

Slavery in America resembled no other form of involuntary servitude known in history, as Africans were captured and sold at auction like inanimate objects or animals.

Africans forced into slavery were brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, and subjected to the

indignity of being stripped of their names and heritage.

In 2022, the passage of H.R. 40 is essential to solving the deep racial, economic, social, and cultural divides in America.

Now more than ever, the facts and circumstances facing our nation demonstrate the importance of H.R. 40 and the necessity of placing our nation on the path to reparative justice.

By passing H.R. 40, Congress can start a movement toward the national reckoning that we need in order to bridge racial divides.

Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation and the hope that someday, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future.

We owe it to the millions of Americans who were born into bondage, knew a life of servitude, and died anonymous deaths, as prisoners of this system.

We owe it to the millions of descendants of these slaves, for they are the heirs to a society of inequities and indignities that naturally filled the vacuum after slavery was formally abolished 154 years ago.

Madam Speaker, the establishment of the Japanese American WWII History Network would represent much more than just a resource that will educate on inequality and brutality in America.

It represents Americans moving past injustices and honoring those who were once victims of racial discrimination in our country.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 6434, the Japanese American WWII History Network.

RECOGNIZING PROSPER MAYOR
RAY SMITH**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ray Smith as he prepares to depart his longtime service as the steadfast Mayor of Prosper, Texas.

A 1981 graduate of Baylor University, Ray earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and Real Estate. During his time at Baylor, Ray, the son of a former Dallas Cowboy, would passionately pursue football as a member of the renowned 1980 Southwest Conference Champion Football Team.

Smith began his career in public service in Frisco, Texas where he served as a member of the City Council, Economic Development Corporation, Community Development Corporation, Planning & Zoning Board, Frisco Education Foundation, and as a volunteer firefighter during a period of unprecedented growth.

In 2004, Ray was appointed the President of the Prosper Economic Development Corporation where he continues to serve as council liaison. In 2005, Ray and his family would relocate to the Town of Prosper where he would plant deep roots and play an integral role in the town's early development. Following his service on Town Council, Ray was elected Mayor in 2010.

Over the past twelve years, Mayor Smith's leadership has helped cultivate the town's rapid but intentional growth. By managing the

town in a manner that focuses on the long-term wellbeing of its residents, Smith has worked to implement needed structural improvements while preserving neighborhood greenspace. During his tenure, the community has tripled in growth, and new residents are frequently known to receive Smith's personally signed welcome letter—a trademark of the affable leader.

In addition to his many leadership roles on numerous boards, councils, and committees, in 2016 Ray was elected to serve on the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board and was elected President of the Board in 2020. He is currently the Chair of the Collin College Foundation Board of Directors, a member of the Meals on Wheels of Collin County Advisory Board, and an Alternate Member of the Regional Transportation Council.

While Ray's many efforts have undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the region, his greatest achievement is his family. Ray and his wife of 31 years, Lena, were blessed with three sons and two grandsons, Jacob and Jackson, whom they are helping to raise.

Ray Smith has undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the Prosper community, and while his tenure as Mayor is coming to a close, he will certainly continue to forge a tremendous legacy. As he prepares to begin a new chapter of his life, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ray Smith for his selfless and dedicated service.

CASSIDY BOGGUS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cassidy Boggus for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Cassidy Boggus is a student at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cassidy Boggus is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cassidy Boggus for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose